

Such amendment can be effected only through an Act of Parliament under Article 341 (2) of the Constitution.

[Translation]

Loss to public sector involved in Civil Aviation

975 SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state

(a) whether various public sector undertakings under his Ministry are incurring constant loss for last several years;

(b) if so, the names of such undertakings and amount of loss suffered by each of them during the last three years;

(c) the amount of capital investment made by the Government on these undertakings during the above period; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to make the above PSUs viable?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C M IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The only undertaking which has been showing losses continuously for the last 3 years is Indian Airlines Ltd. Details of losses during the last 3 years are as under

Years	Loss (Rs. in Crores)
1993-94	258.46
1994-95	188.73
1995-96	134.25

Air India has shown a loss of Rs. 244 crores in 1995-96 only after showing profit in the previous year.

(c) The Capital investment made by Central Government as on 31.03.94 in Indian Airlines was Rs. 105.19 crores and in Air India Rs. 153.83 crores.

(d) Air India and Indian Airlines are taking steps to improve their product, image and on time performance to attract more passengers and to increase revenue.

[English]

Ambari-Falakata Airport, Jalpaiguri

976 PROF JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to revive the Ambari-Falakata Airport at Jalpaiguri; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C M IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The airstrip at Ambari-Falakata belongs to a private party. Government has no plans for upgrading this airport.

Awareness among Scheduled Castes

977 SHRI S D N R WADIYAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state

(a) the steps taken by the Government to create awareness among the people belonging to Scheduled Caste under its various welfare schemes

(b) whether TV sets have also been provided in backward and remote areas to extend benefit to the people of above category; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C M IBRAHIM) : (a) The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has been continuously publicising the various schemes/programmes of the Government for the welfare of Scheduled Castes through electronic, print, film and inter-personal media from time to time.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Different schemes have been drawn up by the Doordarshan for providing TV Sets for community viewing to people in remote and backward areas. The details are given in the Statement enclosed.

STATEMENT

- 5000 TV sets in North East (Very High Frequency - VHF Sets - 3872 and Direct Reception (DR) Sets - 1128)
- 20 DR sets in Sikkim
23 DR sets in Arunachal Pradesh
8 DR sets in Lakshadweep
20 DR sets in Andaman and Nicobar
5 DR sets in Nagaland
5 DR sets in Mizoram
65 DR sets in J and K (under implementation)
50 DR sets in Orissa
30 DR sets in Himachal Pradesh
30 DR sets in Uttar Pradesh Hill Districts
100 VHF sets in Sikkim
500 VHF sets in Kashmir

Price of Wheat

978 SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to release wheat for open sale

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware of the rise in the prices of wheat products; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to regulate the prices?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Government has authorised FCI to undertake open sale of wheat in various States/UTs with certain stipulations after meeting the requirements of PDS. The sale is open to all including Roller Flour Mills/traders etc. A quantity of 4.30 lakh tonnes (Provisional) has been sold by FCI in open sale during April-June, 1996.

(c) Wholesale Price Index of wheat products has moved as under :-

Commodity	Base 1981-82=100		
	25.5.96	1.6.96	29.6.96
Grain Mill Products	299.5	297.9	298.7
Maida	265.9	263.9	269.9
Supr	255.7	255.7	261.3
Atta	319.2	319.2	319.8

(d) State Governments/UTs have been requested to ensure that the prices of wheat and wheat products remain at levels in conformity with the open sale prices of wheat. Open sale of wheat for domestic consumption is also continuing.

Decontrol of Sugar

979. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1369 on December 5, 1995 and state

(a) whether the claim of the Maharashtra Government has been paid to them

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c). No, Sir. The Maharashtra Government has been requested to provide in support of its claim copies of the advise to sell the sugar at below cost price. The same has not yet been received.

[Translation]

Production of Steel

980. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state

(a) the production of steel during each of the last three years in the country;

(b) the target fixed for production of steel during 1995-96 by the Bokaro Steel Plant and whether it has been achieved; and

(c) the profit earned or loss incurred by the Bokaro Steel Plant during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The production of finished steel during the last three years was as follows :-

(in million tonnes)	
Year	Quantity
1993-94	15.20
1994-95	17.82
1995-96 (Prov.)	21.69

(b) Targets are fixed for SAIL Plants in terms of saleable steel. The target for Bokaro Steel Plant during 1995-96 was 3220 thousand tonnes of saleable steel and production was 3330 thousand tonnes, 103% of the target.

(c) The year-wise profit earned by Bokaro Steel Plant during the last three years is given below :-

(Rs. in crores)	
Year	Quantity
1993-94	467.82
1994-95	662.21
1995-96	805.95

[English]

Flight between Calicut-Bombay

981. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to convert the Indian Airlines flights between Calicut and Bombay into a domestic flight;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The flight from Calicut to Bombay is domestic leg of an international flight catering to passengers ex-Calicut/Bombay to Gulf and vice-versa. Its conversion into a domestic flight will cause hardship to Gulf bound passengers from Calicut.

Unmilled Paddy

982. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that over 30 lakh tonnes of paddy are lying unmilled in Punjab;